

University Research Council

April 18, 2023

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Ece convenes meeting at 4:05 pm

Present: Becki Battista, Elaine Berry, Nicholas Cline, Megen Culpepper, Karen Fletcher, Reza Foroughi, Adam Hege, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Charna Howson, Ann Kaplan, Ece Karatan, Ellen Lamont, Shanté Mathes, Gary McCullough, Mina Min, Andres Tellez, Jenny Tonsing, John Wiswell, Heather Waldroup, Twila Wingrove, Jason Xiong

Excused: Alecia Jackson

Staff: Kate Hoffman

Guests: Gabe Casale, Katie Shoaf

Approval of Minutes

1. February 21, 2023 [meeting minutes](#) (Hendren & Wiswell) Motion passes unanimously
2. March 21, 2023 [meeting minutes](#) (Hege & Wiswell) Motion passes unanimously

New Business

URC grants review information and voting (Katie Shoaf, Associate Director, Grants Resources and Services)

Ece introduces Katie Shoaf. Katie briefly explains the rating scale. Fully fund is rated a two. Consider funding is rated a one. Zero is to not consider funding. There is a maximum score of fourteen. The results show twelve applications shaded in green are recommended to fund without reservation and total \$58,025. The funding comes from indirect funds. There is hope to increase the funding for URC applications.

Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$58,025 (Wiswell, Mathes) Motion passes unanimously.

Old Business

Strategic Plan for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (SP for RSCA)

- Overview of the [current draft](#)
- Campus feedback will be collected via town halls that are in person and via Zoom, a Google Form, and small group meetings. Please share this with students. Ece thanks Honors College and OSR for sharing the information. Deans Council has the information to share with their chairs, faculty, and appropriate students. The feedback is by registration. The survey is a Google Form. So far there has been six responses. RSCA describes all activity across campus and does not favor any specific group. The Steering Committee is available to meet with small groups until May 14. Contact Kate Hoffman for scheduling. Feedback will be incorporated into the document. NORDP report will be incorporated too. Plan will be finalized at the end of May. Further details will be outlined in the implementation plan.
- [Institutional Research and Planning website for Strategic Plan for RSCA](#) This is not an Office of Research plan. This is a University plan and that is why it is on IRAP's website. The plan will be approved by the Chancellor. Board of Trustees approval is not necessary. Ece feels that there is adequate support to increase URC funding by 20%. Graduate School stipends have increased. Elaine Berry and Ece are identifying institutional research expenditures for all University funds based on NSF's definition (examples: travel, student research, CITI training). Compared to last two years \$4.9 million, \$4.6 million, there's been a \$3 million increase in captured expenditures. This figure does not include student programming (GEAR UP). Efforts are aligning to streamline sponsored projects management. Proposals and awards have increased. We're seeing some challenges due to these increases. The external review is in order to have the ability to manage and grow with the infrastructure. Results of the external reviews will be shared soon.

The 5th [Research and Creative Activities at Appalachian Celebration](#)

- Event August 25, 2-5 pm, Hayes School of Music
- Update on Chancellor's and Provost's awards in excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activities: Two are selected. Self nominate or nominate your colleague. Faculty committee will review.
- Submissions to present are at 38. It's more than we've ever had.
- URC members (and former members) are needed as moderators: [sign up sheet](#). There will be four rooms with oral presentations. Two are music presentations. Each talk is 30 minutes that includes a Q&A. Please sign up to facilitate these presentations. Detailed instructions will be provided. Connect with the registration desk if tech support is needed. Share this and let's make this a fun event!

[Liaison letters for April](#) - Karen Fletcher and Ece.

Try to keep it to 3 to 4 bullet points and less than a page. Please share about the library's open access and the strategic plan information. A new program has been developed based on an increase in FRT funding. We received another six slots. It is a FRT re-submission program. Connect directly with Karen. First come first served for these slots. The funding is a course release buyout. Information will be

captured in InfoReady. Their chair must approve their application. Ece will share this at the Council of Chairs. Ece has already shared it with the Deans. Let's see how this dissemination of URC information works. Faculty Senators share information with faculty as well; this is no different.

Addressing feedback from departments:

NVivo: ITS has only 20 licenses. Then it's been increased to 40. Now ITS is thinking about 50 and considering \$300 per license for NVivo. Conversations are happening.

Special Funds Accounting has added two additional positions. Hopefully this will address the increased traffic. A College of Arts and Sciences post award contact person for faculty is being added. Hiring interviews are in process.

Research Design and Analysis is the newest unit within the Office of Research. RDA assists with methodical and statistical work across the life of a grant (power and data analysis) A re-analysis is available for re-submissions. Write this benefit into the grant. Health Sciences commonly adds this type of service into their grants. Are open in Summer, but limited hours. Reach out early and get help with project design. See OR's website for contact information to call, email, or to request an appointment through a Google Form.

New Business

Overview of the year ([URC Blitz 2022-2023](#)).

It's nice to look back and see what we've accomplished. Information has been removed from the Faculty Handbook about committees. It will be added back into the bylaws. Building a new website. Improvements to websites will be made. University Communications will build something for review. There will be a news story about the URC with quotes from members and grantees. Not a lot of people know that the URC exists.

URC member feedback

1. What are you most proud of that the URC accomplished this year?

Megen Culpepper relays that communication has been great. Culpepper emails the liaison letter to her department directly.

Christine Hendren likes seeing the barriers come to light. It grabs people's attention for creative solutions. Ece hopes that the operational parts of the strategic plan will create conversations and gather a group for implementing creative solutions.

Becki Battista says that the strategic plan alone is a big accomplishment. The Office of Research is not that old. It provides the basics and guides people to resources to make it happen. We've never had this before.

2. Is there something specific you would like the URC to do or facilitate in the future? What topics would you like to engage in next year?

Megen Culpepper recommends having a URC panel; just like RIEEE has.

Andres Tellez suggests that the challenge is communication. Coordinate with University Communications to get these stories out. Grantees must share their experience with a 30 minute video. Make it more public. A list doesn't do much. Stories and videos do. Ece will recruit you to help with the first story. Most people know about URC grants, but do not know what else the URC does. There are no stories about URC grants unlike A&S's SAFE grants.

Marie Hopefl adds to highlight the URC grants at OR's campus wide event.

Christine Hendren also adds to include RIEEE & IHHS. Incorporate Andres's ideas into a similar event like Banff (event, celebration, and storytelling). This might create more interest.

Announcements

Summer Research Experience and Summer Academic Travel Experience courses

- New requirement students doing research who are not enrolled. A \$50 rate has been approved by the Board of Governors. There is a \$12 insurance fee (liability negotiated at the University System level). Without the insurance, if a student breaks an expensive piece of equipment, the University can ask for the student to pay. It protects them. It's only asked for during the summer. It helps with URAs. Departments can use F&A to pay for students. Stipends are needed. Living expenses are not cheap. A sub-committee is needed to discuss these issues.

[26th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors](#) (Office of Student Research) Awards are at 1 pm until 2:30 pm. Two sessions. Posters highlight the research. Submissions were submitted electronically. Urge students to apply. There will be 30-45 posters per session. Attend and encourage student attendance. There will be refreshments.

Thank you to the URC members rotating off

- Nick Cline (Music)
- Alecia Jackson (College of Education)
- Mina Min (College of Education)
- Megen Culpepper (CAS STEM) and the inaugural Faculty Lead for the URC

Next year's faculty lead will be Adam Hege.

Adjournment at 5:56 pm.